

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

104TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROATIAN SONS LODGE NUMBER 170

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its 104th Anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, October 2, 2011.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees who have attained fifty years of membership include: Geraldine M. Doll, Marko Frankovich, Anthony R. Glibota, Sharon Haynes, Domenica Jaksa, Mary Ann Maggi, Thomas D. Meeks, Mary Ann Pala, Dennis R. Pollack, Mary Kay Rhodes, Judy A. Rodriguez, Anthony A. Samanich, Lorna Gail Scott, Patricia C. Tonkovich, Dennis Tuskan, Diana M. Voyt, and Katherine M. Zarth.

These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with approximately 324 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this important designation.

This memorable day will begin with a mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Croatian Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Stephen Loncar officiating. The banquet will begin at 1 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge President John Miksich and all members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170 for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed hope and prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the legislation before the House—H.R. 2401, the Transparency in Regulatory

Analysis of Impacts on the Nation Act. Coal mining is a lifeblood industry in southwest Indiana and throughout the Midwest. We have abundant reserves of the natural resource throughout my state and the citizens of my district depend heavily on coal mining and the burning of coal for electricity. In fact, 98 percent of Indiana's power generation comes from coal.

The Environmental Protection Agency has gone to great lengths to disrupt coal production in the United States—in many cases hazardingly and without recognition of the economic and social benefits derived from coal mining and the electricity it generates.

The further hampering of our country's ability to mine and utilize coal will have drastic effects on the economy—hitting hardest those areas, like my district, that depend on coal for jobs and paychecks.

That said, there are utilities in this country that have completed or are making currently the strategic investments necessary to comply with the EPA rules this bill seeks to delay. These investments have been made at significant cost to the utility customers, who are paying higher rates as a result.

As this legislative initiative moves from House passage to Senate consideration—and negotiation between the two bodies—it is imperative we find a workable solution that both protects the investments these utilities have made and are making while maintaining the underlying intent of the bill before us.

For this reason, I plan to work toward such a solution because not doing so would leave those utilities at a significant competitive disadvantage in the marketplace—and frankly would be unfair to the customer. I am hopeful my colleagues will join me in this effort.

CONGRATULATING SGT. DAKOTA MEYER ON HIS RECEIPT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to honor Sergeant Dakota Meyer of the United States Marine Corps and the recipient of the highest military honor our Nation can bestow, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Born in Columbia, Sgt. Meyer's upbringing in rural southern Kentucky was quintessentially American. In high school, he distinguished himself—as an all-star on the football field and as a tutor volunteering his time to special-needs students in the classroom. Sgt. Meyer aspired to be a college football player until a chance encounter with a USMC recruiter awakened in his heart the challenge to serve his country. His eighteenth birthday found him at boot camp on Parris Island.

Sgt. Meyer served nobly in Iraq and at the conclusion of his tour there volunteered for another deployment, this time to Afghanistan. He has described the events of September 8, 2009, in the Kunar Province of northeastern Afghanistan as the “worst” day of his life. With that in mind, and the details of his heroism contained in the Medal Citation, I will not recount the terrible events of that day. Because of his actions, thirteen Marines and Army soldiers, as well as twenty-three Afghan soldiers made it out of an ambush to live and serve another day. And the bodies of four fallen American servicemen and a mortally wounded Army soldier—Marines 1st Lt. Michael Johnson, Gunnery Sgt. Edwin Johnson and Staff Sgt. Aaron Kenefick; Navy Corpsman 3rd Class James Layton; and Army Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth W. Westbrook—made it home to their loved ones and a grateful country.

As he received the Congressional Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony on September 16, with his usual modesty Sgt. Meyer dedicated the award to those brave men: “The main thing that we need to get from that day is that those guys died heroes, and they are greatly missed.” Having recently marked the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks that drew us into war, as Sgt. Meyer reminds us, our Nation must commit to memory the service men and women who have sacrificed their utmost since in order to ensure the security and sovereignty of our blessed Republic.

It is impossible to convey how proud I am to join the American people as we honor Sgt. Dakota Meyer. Like him, I believe that in commemorating the events of that day in the far-off mountains of Afghanistan, we may honor those we lost while finding the strength and courage to ensure that the American dream of freedom and liberty will never dim.

TRIBUTE TO STATE SENATOR HARRY “HAP” MYERS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of a remarkable man, State Senator Harry Edward “Hap” Myers, Jr., a lifelong resident of Mobile, Alabama and friend to many who passed away on August 3, 2011, at the age of 72.

During his lifetime, Hap was known for his unbending belief in others and in doing what was right. He was a husband, father, civil engineer, community leader and legislator.

Growing up in Mobile he attended Mary B. Austin Elementary School, Barton Academy, and graduated from Murphy High School in 1957. He received a B.A. Degree in Business Administration and a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering from Auburn University in 1961.

Returning to Mobile, he began on a path he would follow for much of his professional life, serving and then leading the J.B. Converse

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